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URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1953

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To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual  
Report for the year 1953, together with the report  
of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr Scott.

It gives me great pleasure  
to record that Mr Scott has been a most loyal and  
cooperative colleague; and has given most willing  
and valuable service throughout the year.

I have the pleasure to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
D.C.LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

|                                             |                |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Area ( in acres)                            | 23, 362        |
| Number of Inhabited Houses                  | 2, 642         |
| Rateable Value ( at 31.12.53.)              | £30, 510       |
| Product of ld. rate ( at 31.3.53.)          | £122, 10s. 6d. |
| Population (Registrar General's<br>figures) | 8, 577         |



Chairman of the Council.

Mr T. W. Anthony

Vice-Chairman.

Mr T. Richardson

Public Health Committee.

Chairman:

Mr F. Newman

Members:

Mr. E. A. G. Brantom  
Mr. C. Canham  
Mr. C. Dale  
Mr. F. J. Fletcher  
Mr. C. A. Jacobs  
Mr. F. J. Langford  
Mr. R. McCarthy  
Mr. T. Richardson  
Mr. E. W. Rose  
Mr. A. B. Saunders  
Mrs. I. M. Turner

Officers of the Whittlesey Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health:

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. Scott, M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector:

J.H. Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

Offices of the Urban District Council:

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
6 Delph Street,  
WHITTLESEY.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 2312-3



# VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS

|              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 73          | 84            | 157           |
| Illegitimate | 5           | 8             | 13            |
| Total:       | <u>78</u>   | <u>92</u>     | <u>170</u>    |

## Live Birth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 19.8  
 England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 15.5

## STILLBIRTHS.

|              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 2           | 3             | 5             |
| Illegitimate | -           | 1             | 1             |
|              | <u>2</u>    | <u>4</u>      | <u>6</u>      |

## Stillbirth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 total (live and still) births 34.09  
 England and Wales - per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.4

There were 6 stillbirths during the year giving a rate of 34.09 which is much higher than for the country as a whole.

In 3 cases the mother was suffering from a degree of toxæmia during the latter part of the pregnancy and this was probably the cause of the foetal deaths. In the fourth case there was some technical difficulty in extracting the foetus following the correction of an awkward lie. In the fifth case gross malformation of the child was incompatible with life and in the sixth no cause for the stillbirth could be found.

## DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

|              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate   | 2           | 1             | 3            |
| Illegitimate | -           | -             | -            |
|              | <u>2</u>    | <u>1</u>      | <u>3</u>     |

## Infant Mortality Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births 17.6  
 England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births 26.8

For the fifth consecutive year the Infant Mortality Rate for Whittlesey (17.6) has been below the figure for England and Wales (26.8)

There were three deaths of children under one year of age. Two were from non-preventable causes and were twins born prematurely weighing 11b 4 ozs and 11b 2 ozs; both died within a few minutes of birth.

The remaining child's death which took place 2 days after birth was the subject of a Coroner's enquiry. The verdict was "Death by Misadventure".



DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

| <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 49          | 42            | 91           |

Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 10.6  
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 11.4

Causes of Deaths in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied  
by the Registrar General for 1953:-

|                                          | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory.               | -           | 2             |
| Tuberculosis, other.                     | -           | -             |
| Syphilitic disease.                      | -           | -             |
| Diphtheria.                              | -           | -             |
| Whooping cough.                          | -           | -             |
| Meningococcal infections.                | -           | -             |
| Acute poliomyelitis.                     | -           | -             |
| Measles.                                 | -           | -             |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases.  | -           | -             |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach.             | 2           | 2             |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.      | 1           | -             |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast.              | -           | -             |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus.              | -           | 1             |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. | 4           | 2             |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia.                   | 1           | -             |
| Diabetes.                                | -           | -             |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system.      | 4           | 3             |
| Coronary disease, angina.                | 7           | 3             |
| Hypertension with heart disease.         | 5           | -             |
| Other heart disease.                     | 10          | 12            |
| Other circulatory disease.               | -           | 1             |
| Influenza.                               | -           | 5             |
| Pneumonia.                               | -           | 1             |
| Bronchitis.                              | -           | 1             |
| Other diseases of respiratory system.    | 3           | -             |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.           | 1           | -             |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.      | 1           | -             |
| Nephritis and nephrosis.                 | 1           | 1             |
| Hyperplasia of prostate.                 | 1           | -             |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.         | -           | -             |
| Congenital malformations.                | -           | -             |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases.  | 5           | 4             |
| Motor vehicle accidents.                 | 2           | 1             |
| All other accidents.                     | -           | 2             |
| Suicide.                                 | 1           | 1             |
| Homicide and operations of war.          | -           | -             |
| Total:                                   | <u>49</u>   | <u>42</u>     |



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

In these days of swift international air travel the danger of smallpox breaking out in this country is always present since only a small percentage of the population is now being vaccinated. Only those who have experienced an epidemic of this disease can realise the heartbreak of preventable deaths and disfigurement, not to mention the frustration of having one's movements controlled and business interfered with, if one is unfortunate enough to be placed in quarantine, through being a contact.

The number of children vaccinated in this area is regrettably small. Figures published recently show that the percentage vaccinated in the Isle of Ely is much lower than in the neighbouring Counties of Huntingdon, Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk East and West. This reflects the general vaccination state of the population as a whole.

Vaccination gives excellent protection against smallpox and it should be repeated every 5 years in order to maintain immunity. Children should be vaccinated when 2 to 3 months old, and as a rule it does not give rise to more than a day or two of discomfort about the seventh to the ninth day afterwards. Re-vaccination every five years involves no discomfort at all.

### IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough has been carried out for some years now and is proving successful. It is now proposed to immunise against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus simultaneously by 3 injections, 4 weeks apart and starting at the age of 4 months.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1954:-

| <u>Disease.</u>     | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Pneumonia           | 13        | 11        | 24            |
| Scarlet Fever       | 13        | 11        | 14            |
| Measles             | 5         | 3         | 8             |
| Whooping Cough.     | 7         | 18        | 25            |
| Tuberculosis (Pul.) | 1         | 5         | 6             |
| Infective Jaundice. | 2         | 2         | 4             |
| Erysipelas          | 2         | 1         | 3             |
| Puerperal Pyrexia   | -         | 1         | 1             |
| Sonne Dysentery     | 1         | -         | 1             |
|                     | Total:    |           | <u>86</u>     |



## MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, we have on our Register:-

2 Distributors.

2 Dairies.

1 Distributor holding a "Dealers" Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

1 Distributor holding "Supplementary" Licences to sell "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" Milk.

1 Distributor holding a "Supplementary" Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

One hundred and thirty seven samples were submitted to the analyst at Peterborough Memorial Hospital, thirty four being considered unsatisfactory.

Ten samples were submitted for biological examination. *Brucella abortus* was isolated from one sample.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

In no case was it found necessary to make any seizure of diseased or unsound food. The main work in this department was the issue of certificates of unsound food-stuffs, mostly blown and rusted cans, voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

## SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The duty for the inspection of meat in the shops is placed in the hands of Mr J.H.Poles, Meat Inspector.

The slaughtering and meat inspection for the town is carried out at Peterborough.



## WATER SUPPLY.

Approximately 2,507 houses in the area have a piped water supply available. The water is obtained from Peterborough.

During the year 24 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical. The results of the chemical analysis and a bacteriological analysis taken at random are reproduced below:-

### CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Sample of Water labelled "Council Reservoir, Piped supply from Peterborough Corporation" received on the 8th. October 1953 from Mr.W.Scott, Whittlesey Urban District Council.

Physical Characters.....Very slight deposit, otherwise good.  
Reaction.....pH 7.4

| <u>The sample contained:-</u>      | <u>parts per 100,000</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chloride.                          | 2.8                      |
| Ammonia (Free and Saline).         | absent                   |
| Ammonia (Albuminoid).              | 0.0110                   |
| Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C | 0.0527                   |
| Nitrates.                          | absent                   |
| Nitrites.                          | absent                   |
| Poisonous metals.                  | absent                   |
| Total hardness.                    | 27.2                     |

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.  
Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 37°C = 2  
Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 21°C = 7 +  
mould.

### Microscopical examination of deposit

Mineral matter and organic debris.

### INFERENCE.

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a fairly hard water slightly contaminated with organic matter though containing few bacteria.

I am of opinion that this water, as evidenced by the sample is fit for drinking purposes.

Chlorination of this water at the rate of 0.3 parts per million is in the first instance suggested, to be increased or decreased as determined by tests for free chlorine.

13th October 1953. A. Greenburgh,  
Public Analyst.

### "PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE."

#### WATER BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT.

|                                                                   |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Authority or Sender:                                              | Whittlesey U.D.C. Mr Scott.                                     |
| Lab: Ref: No.                                                     | 8048                                                            |
| Nature of Sample.                                                 | Water taken from standpipe in Yard at 6, Horsegate, Whittlesey. |
| Date & Hour of Collection:                                        | 21.5.53. 3p.m.                                                  |
| Date & Hour of Arrival:                                           | 21.5.53.                                                        |
| Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C - Nil |                                                                 |
| 23.5.53. This water is satisfactory.                              | per 100 ml.                                                     |
| (Signed) Dr. Gilmore.                                             |                                                                 |



### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The work of refuse collection was carried out fairly satisfactorily during the year, bearing in mind the fact that our solitary vehicle and crew have to deal with 2500 houses.

The town of Whittlesey has a weekly collection, the villages of Coates and Eastrea a collection every ten days, and Blackbush, Pondersbridge, Eldernell and Turves are visited once monthly.

The disposal of refuse takes place at New Road, Whittlesey, the method being controlled tipping. The work was carried out satisfactorily during the year.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Two common lodging houses were registered at the beginning of the year.

Regular inspections to these premises are carried out.

### HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during 1953 :-

|                           |   |           |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. By Local Authority.    | - | 56        |
| 2. By Private Enterprise. | - | 31        |
| Total :                   |   | <u>87</u> |

### GENERAL.

Council houses and private dwellings are now being completed at a faster rate than ever.

Since the cessation of hostilities 185 houses have been constructed - 142 Council houses and 43 private houses.

It is gratifying to note the change which takes place in families housed from sub-standard dwellings or overcrowded rooms when they take over the occupancy of a new house.

The next task which will have to be faced is the re-housing of families living in railway carriages, caravans, and houses subject to Demolition and Clearance Orders, made before the outbreak of war.

The new Housing Acts soon coming into force will provide wide scope for progressive authorities, in this field.



### COMPLAINTS.

142 complaints were dealt with during the year;  
and are classified as follows:-

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Cesspool, pail and vault work. | 63 |
| House repairs.                 | 23 |
| Refuse collection.             | 15 |
| Rodents/insects.               | 12 |
| Nuisances.                     | 9  |
| Miscellaneous.                 | 9  |
| Drainage.                      | 8  |
| Unsound food.                  | 2  |
| Filthy premises.               | 1  |

The high number of complaints received under the heading, 'Cesspool, pail and vault work', was due to unsatisfactory work carried out by a contractor during the first three months of the year, who has now been replaced.

### STATUTORY NOTICES ISSUED.

|                                                                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 75 Dustbin provision)                               | 4 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 39 Unsatisfactory<br>drainage)                      | 1 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 44 Closet accommodation)                            | 7 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 138 Water supply)<br>(As amended by Water Act 1945) | 5 |

Total :

17

### PRIVY CONVERSION

The drive to rid the town of its remaining insanitary vault lavatories continued throughout the year. 28 vaults were converted to water closets, 7 Statutory Notices being served in cases where no other course was available.

### CESSPOOL, PRIVY VAULT AND PAIL CLOSET WORK.

This work is done by a private contractor. Unsatisfactory work was carried out until 1st April when the contract was transferred to a different contractor.

### SEWERAGE.

The work of providing sewers in the villages of Coates and Eastrea continues. Progress is slow.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

## Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1953.

| Premises.                                                                               | No. on Register. | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 21               | 6            | 2                | -                     |
| Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.                                               | 43               | 9            | 2                | -                     |
| Other Premises.                                                                         | 4                | 4            | 3                | -                     |
| TOTAL:                                                                                  | 68               | 19           | 7                | -                     |

## Cases in which Defects were found

| Particulars                     | Number of cases in which Defects were found. |          |                             |                    | Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted. |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 | Found                                        | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector. | by H.M. Inspector. |                                                        |
| Want of Cleanliness.            | 2                                            | 2        | -                           | 1                  | -                                                      |
| Closet Unsuitable or Defective. | 1                                            | 1        | -                           | -                  | -                                                      |
| TOTAL:                          | 3                                            | 3        | -                           | 1                  | -                                                      |

